

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022
Zoom Video Conference

OSBA committee members in attendance at meeting start: Chair Erika Lopez, Sami Al-Abdrabbuh, Jessica Arzate, Ashley Carson Cottingham, Sara Crawford, Chris Cronin, Jackie Crook, Elizabeth Durant, Sarah Finger McDonald, Libra Forde, Sondra Gomez, Bill Graupp, Linda Hamilton, Liz Hartman, Maria Hinojos Pressey, Kris Howatt, Bruce Kevan, Marvin Lynn, Sonja McKenzie, Judy Newman, Patti Norris, Rebecca Piros, Chrissy Reitz, Judy Richardson, Scott Rogers, Emily Smith, Lori Theros, Becky Tymchuk, Candice Voynick, Dawn Watson, Mark Watson, Maureen Wolf, Ex-officio Linda Brown

OSBA staff in attendance at meeting start: Deputy Executive Director Mary Paulson, Director of Legislative Services Lori Sattenspiel, Director of Legal Services Haley Percell, Legislative Services Specialist Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Analyst La’Nell Trissel

OSBA committee members who joined after the start of the meeting: Anthony Medina, Ex-officio Annette Mattson

OSBA committee members not in attendance: Heath Curry, Jeff Davis, Susan Greenberg, Yesenia Delgado, Katrina Doughty, Greg Kintz, Steve Lowell, Brandy Penner, Courtney Snead, Kathy Wai

I. Introduction of Legislative Policy Committee chair

OSBA President, Scott Rogers, welcomed everyone to meeting and Lori Sattenspiel introduced the new committee chair Erika Lopez.

Chair Erika Lopez called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

II. Welcome and introductions by Erika Lopez

Erika Lopez welcomed everyone to the meeting, called roll, and confirmed a quorum was present.

III. Approve agenda

Motion: Mark Watson moved the committee to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Kris Howatt.

There being no votes in opposition the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Approve meeting minutes

Motion: Chris Cronin moved the committee to approve the prior meetings minutes. Seconded by Sami Al-Abdrabbuh.

The motion carried with 31 in favor and 1 against.

V. Setting the stage

Erika Lopez acknowledged the work the committee has done over the last two years, thanked everyone for their willingness to serve, reiterated that the end goal of the committee is to advocate for school children across the state, and shared the new promise video, <https://youtu.be/sX81OgTXMK0>.

VI. Presentation by Lori Sattenspiel, “Legislative Policy Committee overview.”

Lori Sattenspiel gave an overview of the Legislative Policy Committee: its history, its duties and functions, its goal to provide a collective voice for school boards, and its continued growth. She drew attention to the Roles and Responsibilities document linked in the agenda and announced that the legislative services department would be operationalizing new tools to enhance the effectiveness of the committee’s advocacy efforts.

VII. Presentation by Lori Sattenspiel and Richard Donovan, “Legislative Priorities and Principles review and workplan introduction.”

Lori Sattenspiel gave an overview of the Legislative Priorities and Principles document, its origin, evolution, and current use. Richard Donovan introduced the new Legislative Workplan and expanded on its future development, implementation, and use. The committee then discussed the workplan’s potential and other potential activities that will further the committee’s advocacy work.

Sami Al-Abdrabbuh highlighted the Oregon School Board Members of Color Caucus’s (OSBMCC) advocacy efforts, its ongoing work with the legislative team, its support of the LPC work and priorities, and its support of OSBA’s legislative advocacy in general. The caucus will continue to provide testimony and assessments of equity impact for specific legislative bills.

Concern was brought forward on the structure of OSBA’s governance regions considering the recent legislative redistricting. Lori Sattenspiel indicated that the current governance regions are something that OSBA’s executive staff and the appropriate Board committees are looking into.

The meeting recessed at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:40 a.m.

VIII. Facilitation of tabletop discussion by Mary Paulson “What’s going on in your region?”

Mary Paulson introduced the activity, broke the committee into chat rooms to discuss what is happening in their districts and regions that is important for the legislative team to know as it builds the workplan, and facilitated a report out session to discover reoccurring themes.

Themes reported out:

- COVID, masks, vaccines, mandate fatigue
- Workforce shortages, staff turnover, supporting staff while juggling their responsibilities to cover core curriculum
- Political polarization moving school boards' focus away from students
- Safety of school board members
- Infrastructure: Digital divide (based on both location and income) and outdated buildings
- Board turnover and lack of development of new school board members
- Funding inequity and Balancing funding – funding stabilization, COVID relief/temporary federal moneys, local options or lack thereof, use of SSA funds to backfill
- Enrollment decline
- Public perception, connecting with patrons, responding to the needs of the community
- Legislator turnover and building legislator relationships
- Student voice and need for student empowerment
- Following the law
- Superintendents – recruitment, safety, support, protections
- Lack of universal definitions, specifically the term “equity,” creating an index of terms to “bridge gaps” and bring everyone to the “same page”
- Property tax abatements for developments in an urban renewal zone
- Homeschool engagement
- Some students not ready to come back to in person learning
- Reports from nurses about school conditions
- Wildfire impacts
- Weaponization of national politics, national voice edging out local voice, flooding of robocalls and emails representing national voice providing distractions for local work and student achievement
- Strained relationships with COSA, OSBA, OSAA
- Equal/unequal representation of all districts/members within OSBA, frustration with OSBA
- Finding a uniform voice to the span the widening of the gap between rural and urban areas

IX. Presentation by Richard Donovan, “Legislative 101.”

Richard presented on the legislature’s structure, process, and current status, and gave some brief tips for advocacy.

X. Presentation by Richard Donovan, “Legislative Update.”

Richard Donovan presented a brief preview of the 2022 short session.

The meeting recessed at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

XI. Presentation by Lori Sattenspiel, “Advocacy and region outreach – Introduction.”

Lori Sattenspiel used the training bill as an example to introduce why we advocate, how we advocate, and the future expansion of the committee’s advocacy practices. She introduced Jake Weigler with Praxis and his future outreach work with the committee in April and drew attention to the committee resources links provided in the agenda.

Libra Forde gave a demonstration of how to use the Email My Region tool and discussed how she uses it to communicate with her region.

Liz Hartman spoke about her experience attending legislator coffees and town halls and how they help to expand her relationships with the legislators that represent her region.

Bruce Kevan shared his experience using some of the advocacy tools to develop communication lines with each of the school districts within his region.

Scott Rogers talked about his experience working with the legislative team while preparing for and then testifying before a legislative committee.

Chris Cronin and Jessica Atzate discussed their experiences working with their legislators to help develop legislation.

Lori Sattenspiel introduced the work planned for April’s committee meeting – developing two-way communication with LPC regions and developing the Legislative Workplan – then asked that each committee member start collecting feedback from the school board members within their region and to attend a local legislator coffee or town hall.

XI. Meeting Adjourns

Erika Lopez invited committee members to engage with their region, bring back feedback to the next meeting, and to start attending their legislator’s coffees and town halls.

Lori Sattenspiel announced that, due to many factors, OSBA didn’t attend the NSBA Advocacy Institute this year, but the legislative team is working to schedule regional meetings with the congressional delegation.

Lori Sattenspiel asked that LPC members report back to the legislative team on priority issues they run into during their conversations with their regional membership and legislators.

Chair Erika Lopez adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.